Letters to the Editor

On public meetings

To the Editor:

Your January 12th editorial addresses the proper organization of public meetings so as to be more beneficial overall. You raise the question in regard to the school board meetings that voting on an issue takes place prior to permitting any public input. I would like to provide some clarification on this particular subject.

For the past eleven months, school board meetings have been conducted in such a manner as to allow public input prior to any vote. The procedure used is as follows: A question is introduced; A motion is requested; A second is requested; Discussion on the question (motion) from members of the board **and public** is solicited; Discussion, if any, takes place at this time; Discussion – if any – being completed, then **and only then** is a voted called for.

In addition, an agenda is paassed out to those in attendance prior to the beginning of the meeting so that they might follow along.

I do agree public meetings can be very beneficial. I feel that as many people as possible should attend these meetings. I feel also that the press should be in attendance at all meetings and report firsthand what goes on. Hearsay creates only confusion and more hearsay.

Finally, those who reported to you that they have no voice prior to a vote must have attended their last meeting more than eleven months ago, or they have somehow misunderstood the present meeting format.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Ford
President
Carbondale Area School Board

Small cities' grant

To the Editor:

In regard to the recent discussion by Carbondale city council to apply for a pumping station through the Small Cities Grant, rather than home rehabilitation, when the grants were coming out, we were informed by Community Affairs in Harrisburg two months before council even thought of going for it. We went to the seminar in Wilkes-Barre put on by Community Affairs because we were told to apply for it. Then when we went to the council meeting, we were told the city had first choice on it.

Our president, Robert McDonough, and vice president, Robert DeGrazio, spoke on rehabilitation and so did the mayor. Council wanted to go for the pumping station which was a bad idea because it had only eight points when rehabilitation had 240 points to start off with. The grants are given on the point system. They were told NO by the man from the Planning Commission and us. Granted, the people up in the Park Street area need a pumping station, but it was a lost cause. There are other sources around for those kind of programs (water environment, D.E.R., Sewer Authority, state and federal government).

The loss of the rehab hurts the whole city. There would be a lot of jobs available and new business. They talk about the Mayor with the tax money – they are the ones that are making mistakes -- not the Mayor! You don't apply for a grant in December that has to be in by December 31!

There is another grant application for funds for Economic Development from March 15 until May 16, 1983. If council wants it, they better start to prepare for it now. Our membership is very let down by our city council. We will remember them on election day.

Members of the Belmont
Neighborhood Association
Robert McDonough
President